

Requirements for Parade Floats

Materials used on many parade floats are highly combustible and may cause a catastrophic event if precautions are not taken to mitigate the danger. The Elk Grove Fire Department has established the following guidelines to try to prevent the ignition of combustible materials that would endanger people in/on the floats.

In an effort to assist the community with applying the Uniform Fire Code requirements pertaining to parade floats, this guide has been designed to assist you during all phases of construction, decoration, and dismantling operations.

FIRE RETARDANT

Floats made with decorative material, such as crepe paper and/or combustible decorations, shall be flame-retardant treated. Only a State Fire Marshal's approved fire retardant will be allowed to be used.

- ◆ A list of approved retardants can be obtained at the Fire Prevention Bureau, at the Fire Department Administration office.
- ◆ If any people are riding on board, THE FLOAT MUST BE TREATED WITH FIRE RETARDANT. Hay bales do not need to be treated. Loose hay does have to be treated.
- ◆ If the float is built around a vehicle that is to be driven from within (as opposed to being towed), IT MUST BE TREATED WITH FIRE RETARDANT.
- ◆ If the float is towed and NO people are riding on it, it does NOT have to be treated with fire retardant.
- ◆ All floats that are made of NON-COMBUSTIBLE materials may be built around vehicles and may have people riding on them.

SMOKING

- ◆ Smoking is prohibited when working with flammable and combustible materials of any type.
- ◆ "NO SMOKING" signs shall be displayed in all storage areas.
- ◆ Smoking on a parade float is prohibited.

FIRE EXTINGUISHER

- ◆ A minimum rated 2A10BC, (5 lbs.) is required to be on site during the construction phase of the parade float.
- ◆ A minimum rated 2A10BC, fire extinguisher shall be accessible to the operator of a powered float while the float is in operation.
- ◆ Floats being towed with people on board shall have at least 2 (two) 2A10BC extinguishers on the float.
- ◆ Floats using hay shall have at least 2 (two) 2A10BC extinguishers on the float.

HOUSEKEEPING

- ◆ Cleanup of all combustibles and trash shall be done on a regular basis.

ELECTRICITY

- ◆ Any float using a generator or other power source requires a miscellaneous electrical permit obtained from the Building Department when more than one extension cord is used.
- ◆ No combustibles are permitted within five (5) feet of a generator.
- ◆ Generators shall be secured.
- ◆ Use only an extension cord with built-in circuit breaker.

SPACE HEATERS

- ◆ Space heaters shall not be allowed in or around floats while in use or under construction.

FIREWORKS

- ◆ It is prohibited to use fireworks in a parade setting where floats are present.

FLOAT REFUELING PROCEDURES

- ◆ Floats shall be refueled as scheduled and only in the presence of a Fire Department Engine Company.
- ◆ Propane or natural gas are *NOT* allowed as a source to fuel the floats.
- ◆ The storage of gasoline cans on a float is prohibited.

INSPECTION

- ◆ Bring a plan of your float to the Fire Department for review prior to construction.
- ◆ All floats will be inspected by a member of the Fire Department prior to beginning the parade.

FLOAT EXITS

- ◆ Each float with people riding on or in it shall allow for easy and immediate exit.
- ◆ Drivers of powered floats shall be able to open the driver's side vehicle door and a swinging door on the float to exit safely.

PARADE FLOAT REQUIREMENTS GUIDE

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ELK GROVE COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT
FIRE DEPARTMENT

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